Buying a home with a private well?
Test the water before you buy.

Rhode Island law about private well water protects your family's health and your investment.

What home buyers and sellers must do

- **Home buyers must:**
  - **Test the water** using licensed experts to collect, test, and interpret the water sample results. Water testing is done within 10 days after signing the Purchase and Sales Agreement, often as part of the home inspection. Ask your home inspector to use licensed experts to collect, test, and interpret water samples.
  - The law protects buyers only if you test the water before the closing − the final sale.
  - **Pay for the water tests** listed on side 2.
  - **Review the water test report** from a licensed expert who determines if water quality meets safety standards. The test report will also go to the Rhode Island Department of Health. You may choose to share results with the home seller.

- **Home sellers must:**
  - **Share any previous water test results** with buyers.
  - **Allow a licensed expert** hired by the buyer to take water samples in the house for sale.

Be a smart home buyer

Clean, safe drinking water protects your family’s health and your investment. The cost of testing is small – several hundred dollars – compared to the peace of mind you gain. It’s one more step in buying a home, but it’s not hard. Talk to your home inspector and insist they use licensed experts to collect, test, and interpret water samples.

See side 2 for the water tests you need and State-certified labs.
Required water tests for home sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Item</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Sulfate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alkalinity (as CaCO₃)</td>
<td>Manganese</td>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Coliform &amp; Escherichia coli</td>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>Turbidity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardness (as CaCO₃)</td>
<td>Nitrate</td>
<td>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride</td>
<td>pH</td>
<td>MtBE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>Specific Conductance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
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</table>

The water test results will show you if the water is safe to drink and how it will affect the household plumbing over time. The results will also tell you if treatment is needed.

Other tests may be required. Contact the local building official at town hall to find out.

Where to Test: State-certified Water Testing Labs

**BAL and ESS Labs**  
(401) 785-0241  
185 Frances Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02910  
www.Ballaboratory.com

**New England Testing Lab, Inc.**  
(401) 353-3420  
59 Greenhill Street  
West Warwick, RI 02893  

**RI Analytical Labs**  
(401) 737-8500  
41 Illinois Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02888  
www.RIAnalytical.com

**Microbac Laboratories**  
(800) 334-0103  
61 Louisa Viens Drive  
Dayville, CT 06241  
www.microbac.com

**Northeast Environmental Testing Lab**  
(401) 454-3400  
472 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 20908  
www.Neetl.com

State-certified water testing labs are current as of 2015. For updates see:  
www.health.ri.gov/water/for/privatewellowners/

We’re here to help. Call us!

We are water quality experts who can give you accurate information at no cost. See who we are and how to reach us on side 1 and below.